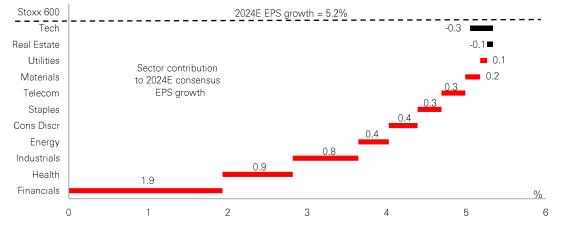


# Investment Weekly

31 May 2024 For Professional Clients only.

# Chart of the week - Euro 2024!



With Europe's Q1 earnings season drawing to a close – and more than 90% of stocks having now reported – the big picture is that the continent's corporates are materially beating consensus expectations. After consistently being on the back foot versus US peers post-Covid, European firms – and share prices – are feeling the effects of an improving macro environment and a rebound in earnings momentum. And, crucially, they also now face the prospect of a rate cut from the European Central Bank next week. The Stoxx Europe 600 index is up over 7% year-to-date.

The outlook for 2024 index earnings growth is currently just above 5%. Financials – which saw the most earnings 'beats' and highest upward revisions in Q1 – are forecast to contribute 40% of the growth this year. And with the sector's priceearnings ratio 30% below its own long-run average and double the normal discount to US peers, there is room for price gains. Meanwhile, technology, which has underpinned earnings growth in the US, is set to be a net drag on earnings growth in Europe this year. But there should be a turnaround in tech fortunes at the end of this year. Analysts expect this to push index EPS growth higher to match the US more closely at around 10% in 2025.

Overall, appealing valuations and the potential for a cyclical pickup offers some reasons to be confident. ECB cuts boost the appeal of small caps. **But the outlook remains dependent on Fed policy, which ultimately constrains the ECB. And it's hard to see a robust European recovery if US economic momentum falters.** 

# Market Spotlight

#### All eyes on securitised

Many areas of the corporate credit market are currently trading at historically tight spreads. But one investment grade asset class benefiting from higher rates yet still offering potential long-term value, is securitised credit.

As a largely floating rate asset, the coupons on securitised rose in 2022 and 2023 and have yet to meaningfully fall. As long as rates remain high, **the securities could continue to generate high income**. And while spreads have tightened during the last quarter, they remain close to the middle of the range since 2009 (excluding Covid).

Our Securitised Investments team tell us that recent tightening has been less significant in commercial mortgagebacked securities (CMBS). That's not surprising given the fragile outlook for commercial real estate. It means performance of CMBS has depended heavily on the profile of secured properties. Sectors like Life Sciences, Multifamily and Prime Offices that accommodate working from home, are expected to keep performing well. But secondary offices and secondary shopping malls face a more uncertain outlook – meaning that security selection is key. Against a backdrop of elevated rates and relatively modest spreads, we remain positive on the asset class. Japanese Equities  $\rightarrow$ 

Exploring the impact of a weaker yen on the Japanese stock market

# Asia FX $\rightarrow$

Why Asian currencies have been resilient against the strong US dollar

#### Immigration Trends →

Why a rise in immigration could be boosting the US economy

Discover more in our <u>02 Global Investment</u> <u>Outlook</u>

The value of investments and any income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Past performance does not predict future returns. The level of yield is not guaranteed and may rise or fall in the future. This information shouldn't be considered as a recommendation to buy or sell specific sector/stocks mentioned.

Any views expressed were held at the time of preparation and are subject to change without notice. While any forecast, projection or target where provided is indicative only and not guaranteed in any way. HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited accepts no liability for any failure to meet such forecast, projection, or target.

Source: HSBC Asset Management. Macrobond, Bloomberg. Data as at 11.00am UK time 31 May 2024.



#### Japanese stocks slip

After rallying in Q1 2024, Japanese stocks have delivered a more subdued performance in Q2. A key reason has been weakness in the yen, which has fallen to multi-year lows against the US dollar. Historically, there has been a negative correlation between the yen and Japanese stocks because a weak currency tends to boost big exporters. But there are downsides too. Higher import costs have crimped the margins of domestic firms, notably in the energy and materials sectors. And after a period of strong international inflows, the weaker yen now risks being a deterrent to foreign investors.

Despite these frictions, the outlook for Japanese stocks is positive. Earnings growth has been resilient, helped by stronger regional trade flows and robust demand in sectors like technology. In May, Japan's manufacturing PMI survey moved into expansion territory for first time in a year. Ongoing corporate governance reforms also help. And in terms of valuation, Japan still trades at a discount to other DM markets like the US, which together with its growth outlook is why **it remains one of our favoured DM regions**.

#### **Resilient Asian FX**

Against the backdrop of a strong US dollar, emerging market Asia FX has proved to be relatively resilient this year. While countries across the region have responded to the pressure in different ways, the general picture is that Asian currencies have only seen modest weakness versus their major EM peers.

This resilience is down to several factors. One is that Asian economies have been in better shape to fend off FX stress than in the past. FX reserve adequacy ratios and basic balances have been bolstered, and balance of payments risks are more manageable. Asian central banks have also had a wider range of policy tools at their disposal to curb excessive one-sided FX moves without needing to deplete their FX reserves.

Key risks remain, particularly given the wide rate differentials with the US and the potential for prolonged dollar strength. But our view is that the **dollar could soften later this year as Fed rate cuts come closer into view,** and that could benefit Asian currencies. A cyclical recovery in Asia's export cycle, particularly in hightechnology industries, also provides some upside potential.

#### Immigration and the golden path

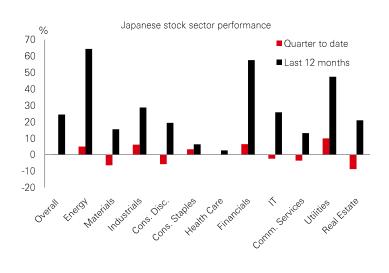
When trying to explain recent US economic resilience, one overlooked factor may have been the impact of a significant increase in US immigration last year. Recent estimates from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) suggest that net immigration was 3.3m last year, up from 2.7m in 2022 and 1.2m in 2021, and well above the 900k average between 2010 and 2019.

Population growth is an easy way to guarantee higher rates of economic growth – look at India today. But importantly, an increase in the size of the labour force **helps keep a lid on wage demands and thus underlying inflation pressures**. This is a key tenet of our golden path scenario which incorporates other positive supply-side shocks such as a pickup in productivity growth, or benign geopolitics and subdued commodity prices – typically good news for markets.

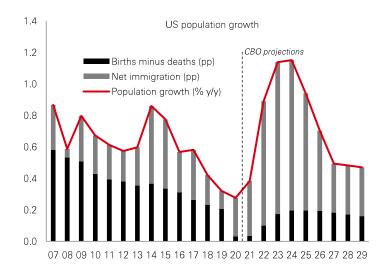
The CBO expects another strong year of population growth in 2024. But beyond that, political pressure may mean immigration levels are likely to taper off no matter who occupies the White House.

#### Past performance does not predict future returns.

Source: HSBC Asset Management. Macrobond, Bloomberg. Data as at 11.00am UK time 31 May 2024.





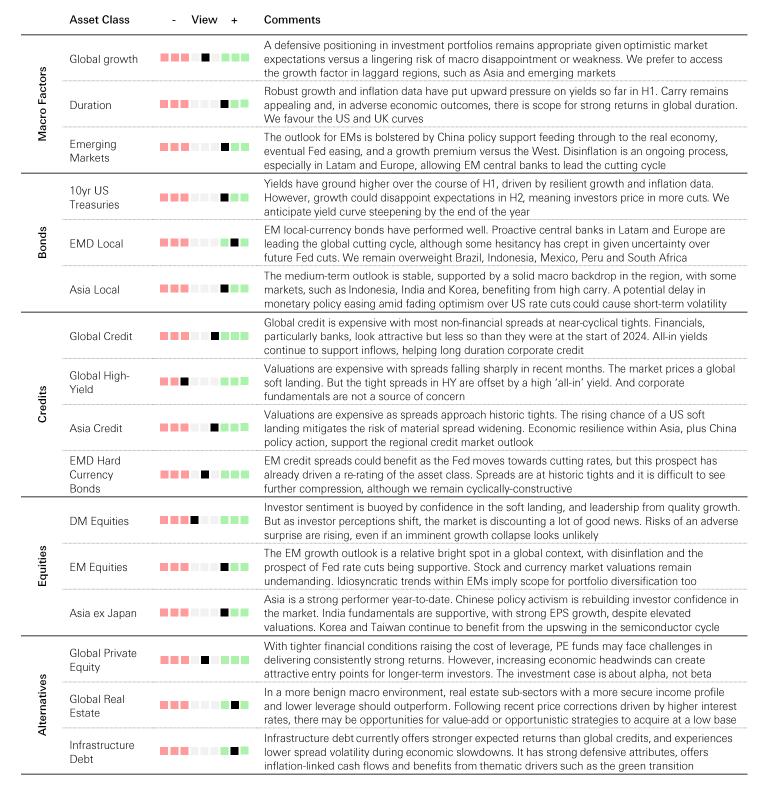




# Asset class views

Our baseline macro scenario is for a soft-ish landing, involving a slowdown in growth and further disinflation. But the data flow is likely to remain bumpy and the outlook remains uncertain. Risk asset valuations are stretched in many areas. That means that any deterioration in corporate fundamentals could create market volatility. A defensive positioning in portfolios remains appropriate, which includes selective exposures to fixed income, risk assets, and private markets.

House view represents a 12-month investment view across major asset classes in our portfolios.





# This week

Date	Country	Indicator	Data as of	Actual	Prior	Comment
Mon. 27 May	US/UK	US Memorial Day and UK Spring	bank holida	y. Financial	markets c	losed
Tue. 28 May	US	Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index	May	102.0	97.5	Consumer confidence rebounded in May, the first rise since January, but remained within the range seen since early 2022
	US	S&P Case Shiller House Price Index, 20 major cities (mom)	Mar	0.3%	0.6%	Supply constraints have ensured US house prices have continued to rise in the face of high mortgage rates and weak demand
Thu. 30 May	US	GDP (qoq annualised)	Q1	1.3%	1.6%	Q1 GDP was revised down modestly, driven by softer consumer spending. Pre-tax corporate profits fell modestly on a qoq basis
	US	Pending Home Sales (mom)	Apr	-7.7%	3.6%	US pending home sales fell in April as higher mortgage rates weighed on demand
	JP	Tokyo CPI ex fresh food & energy (yoy)	May	1.7%	1.8%	Tokyo core inflation edged down in May, reflecting softer service sector inflation, although this should prove short-lived
	JP	Industrial Production (mom)	Apr	-0.1%	4.4%	Industrial production surprised on the downside in April but this was due to one-off factors and should prove temporary
Fri. 31 May	CN	Official Manufacturing PMI	May	49.5	50.4	China's official manufacturing PMI dipped back into contraction territory in May, driven by weaker new orders
	EZ	СРІ (уоу)	May (P)	2.6%	2.4%	Inflation surprised on the upside in May, driven by stronger services price increases
	IN	GDP (yoy)	Q1	-	8.4%	A base effect from a strong Q1 2023 should weigh on yoy growth, but the underlying demand remains strong
	US	Core PCE Deflator (yoy)	Apr	-	2.8%	Inflation was uncomfortably strong in early 2024, but CPI and PPI data suggest month-on-month core PCE will moderate in April

P – Preliminary, Q – Quarter CN – China, EZ – Eurozone, IN – India

# The week ahead

Date	Country	Indicator	Data as of	Survey	Prior	Comment
Sat. 1 June	IN	Indian General Election	Jun			The final phase of voting finishes on June 1st with the result announced on June 4th. The BJP party is expected to retain power
Sun. 2 June	MX	Mexican Presidential Election	Jun			Opinion polls suggest Claudia Sheinbaum, the candidate for the incumbent Morena-PT-PVEM party, will achieve a comfortable victory
Mon. 3 June	CN	Caixin Manufacturing PMI	May	51.6	51.4	The Caixin manufacturing PMI has increased gradually during 2024 as global headwinds have faded
	IN	HSBC Manufacturing PMI	May	-	58.4	India's manufacturing PMI is running at an elevated level
	US	ISM Manufacturing index	May	49.7	49.2	The ISM manufacturing index could rebound in May, taking a lead from the bounce in the preliminary S&P manufacturing PMI
	MX	S&P Global Manufacturing PMI	Jun	-	49.2	Mexico's S&P global manufacturing PMI should improve in May after dropping into contractionary territory in April
Tue. 4 June	BR	GDP (qoq)	Q1	0.7%	0.0%	Brazil's GDP looks set to rebound in early 2024, driven by firmer domestic demand amid rising business confidence
Wed. 5 June	CN	Bank of Canada Interest Rate Decision	Jun	4.75%	5.00%	The Bank of Canada looks likely to cut rates 25bp to 4.75% in June following recent downward inflation surprises
	US	ISM Services index	May	51.0	49.4	The rebound in the preliminary S&P Global US services PMI suggests the ISM equivalent should return to expansion territory in May
Thu. 6 June	EZ	ECB interest rate decision	Jun	3.75%	4.00%	The ECB is expected to cut rates by 25bp in June. ECB President Lagarde is unlikely to commit to a timetable for further easing given sticky service sector inflation and wage growth
Fri. 7 June	CN	Trade Balance (USD bn)	May	71.5	72.4	Chinese exports should be supported by improving external demand whilst continued soft domestic demand may constrain imports
	IN	Reserve Bank of India Interest Rate Decision	Jun	6.50%	6.50%	The RBI is expected to remain on hold in June, awaiting further progress on disinflation before easing, probably in late 2024
	US	Change in Non-Farm Payrolls (000s)	May	180	175	Payrolls growth slowed in April and business surveys suggest some further moderation is likely in the coming months

P - Preliminary, Q - Quarter IN - India, MX - Mexico, EZ - Eurozone, CN - China, BR - Brazil

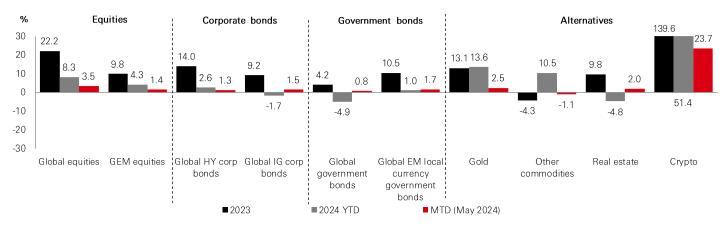
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# This week

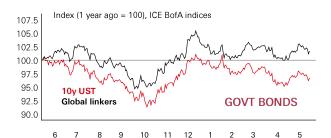
Hawkish Fed comments weighed on risk markets this week. Core government bonds sold off modestly with markets factoring in only one 25bp Fed funds rate cut this year as investors await the European Central Bank council meeting. The DXY US dollar index consolidated. US equities saw widespread weakness with the interest rate-sensitive Russell 2000 underperforming. The Euro Stoxx 50 fell, led by weaker tech stocks. Japan's Nikkei 225 was also on the defensive as supply concerns and interest rate worries weighed on JGBs. In EM, the Shanghai Composite traded sideways despite China's official manufacturing PMI dipping back into negative territory in May. India's Sensex dropped amid caution ahead of the outcome of the general election. In commodities, oil prices were steady ahead of the OPEC+ meeting. Copper weakened on disappointing Chinese data, and gold moved sideways.

#### Selected asset performance

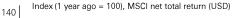








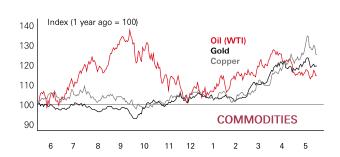






Index (1 year ago = 100), Bloomberg total return indices





#### Past performance does not predict future returns

Source: HSBC Asset Management. Macrobond, Bloomberg. Data as at 11.00am UK time 31 May 2024.



Equity Indices	Close	1-week Change (%)	1-month Change (%)	3-month Change (%)	1-year Change (%)	YTD Change (%)	52-week High	52-week Low	Fwd P/E (X)
World	01000	(70)	(/0)	(70)	(70)	(70)	riigii	Low	() ()
MSCI AC World Index (USD)	781	-1.3	3.2	2.6	20.8	7.4	798	628	18.3
North America									
US Dow Jones Industrial Average	38,111	-2.5	0.8	-2.3	15.8	1.1	40,077	32,327	18.8
US S&P 500 Index	5,235	-1.3	4.0	2.7	25.3	9.8	5,342	4,104	21.4
US NASDAQ Composite Index	16,737	-1.1	6.9	4.0	29.4	11.5	17,033	12,544	30.1
Canada S&P/TSX Composite Index	22,072	-1.1	1.6	3.3	12.8	5.3	22,555	18,692	15.2
Europe									
MSCI AC Europe (USD)	565	-0.9	3.6	4.5	16.2	5.9	576	459	14.1
Euro STOXX 50 Index	4,979	-1.1	1.2	2.1	18.0	10.1	5,122	3,993	13.9
UK FTSE 100 Index	8,250	-0.8	1.3	8.1	10.8	6.7	8,474	7,216	12.0
Germany DAX Index*	18,472	-1.2	3.0	4.5	17.9	10.3	18,893	14,630	13.3
France CAC-40 Index	7,966	-1.6	-0.2	0.5	12.2	5.6	8,259	6,774	14.1
Spain IBEX 35 Index	11,310	0.6	4.2	13.1	25.0	12.0	11,386	8,879	11.2
Italy FTSE MIB Index	34,468	-0.1	2.1	5.8	32.3	13.6	35,474	26,000	9.3
Asia Pacific									
MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan (USD)	550	-2.0	2.1	4.8	9.9	4.1	573	469	14.3
Japan Nikkei-225 Stock Average	38,488	-0.4	0.2	-1.7	24.6	15.0	41,088	30,488	22.0
Australian Stock Exchange 200	7,702	-0.3	0.5	0.0	8.6	1.5	7,911	6,751	17.0
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	18,080	-2.8	1.8	9.5	-0.8	6.1	20,361	14,794	9.0
Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index	3,087	-0.1	-0.6	2.4	-3.7	3.8	3,322	2,635	11.4
Hang Seng China Enterprises Index	6,393	-3.2	1.9	12.6	3.7	10.8	7,024	4,943	8.4
Taiwan TAIEX Index	21,174	-1.8	3.8	11.6	27.7	18.1	21,937	15,976	18.9
Korea KOSPI Index	2,637	-1.9	-2.1	-0.2	2.3	-0.7	2,779	2,274	10.4
India SENSEX 30 Index	73,947	-1.9	-0.7	2.0	18.1	2.4	76,010	62,359	21.0
Indonesia Jakarta Stock Price Index	6,971	-3.5	-3.6	-4.7	5.1	-4.2	7,454	6,563	13.0
Malaysia Kuala Lumpur Composite Index	1,597	-1.4	1.3	2.9	15.1	9.8	1,633	1,369	14.4
Philippines Stock Exchange PSE Index	6,433	-2.8	-4.0	-7.4	-0.7	-0.3	7,071	5,920	10.9
Singapore FTSE Straits Times Index	3,337	0.6	1.3	6.2	5.6	3.0	3,393	3,042	10.7
Thailand SET Index	1,346	-1.4	-1.6	-1.8	-12.3	-5.0	1,579	1,330	14.7
Latam									
Argentina Merval Index	1,643,011	8.0	24.1	61.9	380.3	76.7	1,644,118	338,676	9.9
Brazil Bovespa Index*	122,707	-1.3	-2.6	-4.9	13.3	-8.6	134,392	108,193	7.7
Chile IPSA Index	6,639	-2.0	2.0	2.9	21.3	7.1	6,838	5,363	10.9
Colombia COLCAP Index	1,404	-0.3	3.4	10.2	27.7	17.5	1,451	1,045	7.4
Mexico S&P/BMV IPC Index	55,353	-0.1	-2.4	-0.1	5.0	-3.5	59,021	47,765	12.7
EEMEA									
Russia MOEX Index	3,244	-4.5	-6.5	-0.4	19.4	4.7	3,522	2,628	N/A
South Africa JSE Index	77,225	-2.4	1.5	6.2	2.9	0.4	80,214	69,128	10.5
Turkey ISE 100 Index*	10,649	-0.3	6.0	15.8	117.9	42.6	11,088	4,868	5.2

\*Indices expressed as total returns. All others are price returns.

Equity Indices - Total Return	1-week Change (%)	1-month Change (%)	3-month Change (%)	YTD Change (%)	1-year Change (%)	3-year Change (%)	5-year Change (%)
Global equities	-1.3	3.5	3.2	8.3	22.9	15.5	72.7
US equities	-1.3	4.0	2.8	9.9	26.9	26.3	101.1
Europe equities	-0.8	4.3	6.2	7.8	19.5	10.2	49.4
Asia Pacific ex Japan equities	-2.0	2.4	5.5	5.0	12.8	-15.7	24.8
Japan equities	-0.5	0.0	-1.9	5.7	17.1	6.1	42.1
Latam equities	-2.0	-2.3	-4.7	-9.4	13.6	13.5	14.8
Emerging Markets equities	-2.3	1.4	4.4	4.3	13.3	-16.8	20.1

All total returns quoted in USD terms and subject to one-day lag. Data sourced from MSCI AC World Total Return Index, MSCI USA Total Return Index, MSCI AC Europe Total Return Index, MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Total Return Index, MSCI Japan Total Return Index, MSCI Emerging Latin America Total Return Index, and MSCI Emerging Markets Total Return Index Total return includes income from dividends and interest as well as appreciation or depreciation in the price of an asset over the given period.



Bond indices - Total Return	Close	1-week Change (%)	1-month Change (%)	3-month Change (%)	1-year Change (%)	YTD Change (%)
BarCap GlobalAgg (Hedged in USD)	556	-0.3	0.7	-0.1	3.0	-0.9
JPM EMBI Global	857.3	-0.2	1.7	1.5	9.6	1.0
BarCap US Corporate Index (USD)	3171.8	-0.3	1.4	0.1	4.0	-1.5
BarCap Euro Corporate Index (Eur)	245.9	-0.1	0.2	0.6	5.2	-0.2
BarCap Global High Yield (Hedged in USD)	583.8	0.0	1.1	2.0	14.0	3.1
Markit iBoxx Asia ex-Japan Bond Index (USD)	216.7	-0.2	1.3	1.0	5.2	1.4
Markit iBoxx Asia ex-Japan High-Yield Bond Index (USD)	248	-0.2	2.0	3.6	13.0	8.2

Total return includes income from dividends and interest as well as appreciation or depreciation in the price of an asset over the given period.

rotal return includes income in				·					1-week
Currencies (vs USD)	Latest	1-week Ago	1-month Ago	3-months Ago	1-year Ago	Year End 2023	52-week High	52-week Low	Change (%)
Developed markets	Editoti	, (go	7.90	, tgo	, (go	2020	riigii	2011	(70)
EUR/USD	1.08	1.08	1.07	1.08	1.07	1.10	1.13	1.04	0.0
GBP/USD	1.27	1.27	1.25	1.26	1.24	1.27	1.31	1.20	-0.1
CHF/USD	1.10	1.09	1.09	1.13	1.10	1.19	1.20	1.08	0.9
CAD	1.36	1.37	1.38	1.36	1.36	1.32	1.39	1.31	0.1
JPY	157	157	158	150	139	141	160	137	-0.2
AUD/USD	0.66	0.66	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.68	0.69	0.63	0.3
NZD/USD	0.61	0.61	0.59	0.61	0.60	0.63	0.64	0.58	0.1
Asia									
HKD	7.82	7.81	7.82	7.83	7.83	7.81	7.85	7.79	-0.1
CNY	7.24	7.24	7.24	7.19	7.11	7.10	7.35	7.06	0.0
INR	83.5	83.1	83.4	82.9	82.7	83.2	83.6	81.7	-0.5
MYR	4.71	4.71	4.77	4.74	4.61	4.59	4.81	4.50	0.1
KRW	1386	1369	1382	1331	1326	1291	1400	1257	-1.2
TWD	32.5	32.3	32.6	31.6	30.8	30.6	32.7	30.5	-0.7
Latam									
BRL	5.20	5.17	5.19	4.97	5.06	4.85	5.29	4.70	-0.7
COP	3866	3873	3922	3926	4448	3875	4427	3739	0.2
MXN	17.0	16.7	17.1	17.1	17.7	17.0	18.5	16.3	-2.0
ARS	894	891	877	842	239	808	895	240	-0.4
EEMEA									
RUB	90.2	89.6	93.5	91.2	81.3	89.5	102.4	80.5	-0.7
ZAR	18.8	18.4	18.8	19.2	19.7	18.4	19.7	17.4	-2.1
TRY	32.2	32.2	32.4	31.2	20.8	29.5	32.8	20.8	0.0

Bonds	Close	1-week Ago	1-month Ago	3-months Ago	1-year Ago	Year End 2023	1-week basis point change*
US Treasury yields (%)							
3-Month	5.37	5.40	5.39	5.38	5.39	5.33	-2
2-Year	4.95	4.95	5.04	4.62	4.40	4.25	0
5-Year	4.58	4.53	4.72	4.24	3.75	3.85	6
10-Year	4.56	4.47	4.68	4.25	3.64	3.88	9
30-Year	4.68	4.57	4.78	4.38	3.86	4.03	11
10-year bond yields (%)							
Japan	1.06	1.00	0.87	0.70	0.43	0.61	6
UK	4.38	4.26	4.35	4.12	4.18	3.53	12
Germany	2.70	2.58	2.58	2.41	2.28	2.02	12
France	3.18	3.06	3.05	2.88	2.85	2.56	13
Italy	4.00	3.89	3.91	3.84	4.08	3.69	11
Spain	3.43	3.34	3.35	3.29	3.33	2.98	9
China	2.32	2.31	2.31	2.35	2.71	2.56	0
Australia	4.41	4.31	4.42	4.14	3.61	3.96	10
Canada	3.70	3.60	3.82	3.49	3.19	3.11	10

\*Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

_Commodities		1-week Change (%)	1-month Change (%)	3-month Change (%)	1-year Change (%)	YTD Change (%)	52-week High	52-week Low
Gold	2,342	0.4	2.4	14.6	19.3	13.5	2,450	1,811
Brent Oil	81.2	-1.1	-5.9	0.8	16.0	6.3	91	69
WTI Crude Oil	77.7	0.0	-4.4	2.0	18.6	8.0	86	66
R/J CRB Futures Index	293.0	-0.4	0.5	6.5	15.4	11.1	300	254
LME Copper	10,116	-2.0	1.2	19.1	25.1	18.2	11,105	7,856

# Past performance does not predict future returns. The level of yield is not guaranteed and may rise or fall in the future. Source: HSBC Asset Management. Bloomberg. Data as at 11.00am UK time 31 May 2024.

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